

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 12, 2018

The Honorable James Mattis  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Mattis,

As we begin a new fiscal year, we know you and your colleagues are hard at work on the budget request for FY20. With that in mind, we write to express our strong support for next-generation missile defense programs.

As articulated in both the National Security Strategy and the National Defense Strategy, and reiterated in your National Military Strategy, the Trump Administration understands we now live in a world of strategic competition with Russia and China. Our military is no longer occupied solely with waging counterinsurgencies against stateless actors around the globe; we must reorient our defense posture to counter foreign regimes which possess the resources, infrastructure, and intent to challenge the United States in multiple domains. The increasingly complex missile threat is one such area.

Between 2016 and 2017 alone, North Korea conducted approximately 40 missile launches (including what many believe were successful tests of a reentry vehicle, an intercontinental ballistic missile, and a submarine-launched ballistic missile). Iran, a longtime fellow traveler of the Hermit Kingdom, has continued testing its own ballistic missiles, spurring fears of expanding the arms race in the Middle East to strategic weapons. Meanwhile, China and Russia are both developing and testing hypersonic weapons at a very rapid rate, investing in capabilities they know will bypass our existing missile defense architecture. Some of these hypersonic weapons are expected to be deployable in the next two years—even more will be ready within the next five to seven years.

The United States, our deployed forces, and our allies face a rapidly escalating threat from cruise missiles, hypersonic and boost-glide vehicles, and intermediate and long-range ballistic missile technology posed by rogue states and near-peer conventional militaries. After years of underfunding by the Obama Administration, we find ourselves racing to catch up to substantial advances made by the Chinese and Russians. We applaud the Trump Administration's bold embrace of modernizing and expanding current systems and the pursuit of next-generation missile defense technologies; however, if the U.S. is to maintain a missile defense architecture capable of deterring modern threats we must fund these critical new programs.

To ensure our nation stays ahead of these growing threats, we must also accelerate investment in technologies to address the near-future threats capable of avoiding or overwhelming our existing missile defense architecture. To this end, we ask that your budget request for the space sensor layer to at least match the amount appropriated for the program in FY19: \$73 million. The space sensor layer is the backbone of the modernization efforts and must be prioritized accordingly.

We also encourage you to request at least \$220 million for the various directed energy programs currently being pursued for missile defense, such as the Missile Defense Agency's Low Power Laser Demonstrator and laser scaling technology maturation initiatives. As the rising threat of hypersonic weapons continues to grow, and missile technology proliferates amongst near-peer competitors and rogue regimes alike, directed energy is a capability which will enable to "leap-frog" these threats and place our adversaries on the wrong side of the cost curve. Finally, we believe it is important for the Administration to pursue a boost phase missile defense with all haste—to include a space-based intercept capability. To this end, we believe an additional \$200 million should be invested into the most promising boost phase programs and space-based missile defense concepts. Space is the ultimate high ground, and it is essential to our way of life that we maintain our dominance in this warfighting domain.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. The Trump Administration is in a position to develop long-term safeguards able protect generations of future Americans from the world's deadliest weapons. We support the Administration's efforts and stand ready to assist you in this most important endeavor.

Sincerely,



Doug Lamborn



Mike Rogers



Elise M. Stefanik



Michael R. Turner



Mike Coffman



Robert J. Wittman



Mo Brooks



Scott DesJarlais



Sam Graves



Bradley Byrne



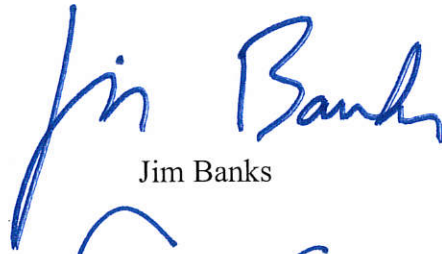
Paul Mitchell



Jody B. Hice



Debbie Lesko



Jim Banks



Tom Cole



Liz Cheney